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Championship is
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families
share
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Support keeps aviation flying

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
CAB Public Affairs

The scenario that most people equate with Army aviation is the TV and movie version. Helicopters fly overhead, some landing to pour out troops, while still others hovering to fire weapons at the enemy. What the TV and movies don't show is how those helicopters were able to get off the ground in the first place.

"The pilots and mechanics need food, vehicles on the ground need to be kept up, and most importantly helicopters need fuel and ammunition," said Capt. Stephanie Cediel, commander, Co. E, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. "We take care of all ground based logistics for the battalion."

Echo Company is a product of the Army's restructuring to create units that are more self-sustaining. Normally made up of several main logistics functions, Co. E also covers vehicle maintenance, field kitchen, and aircraft and ammunition distribution. Echo is designed to be the

strong logistics base that keeps 3/3 Avn. in the air and on target, said Cediel.

"Nowhere is that more apparent than in the vehicle maintenance arena," said Chief Warrant Officer John Johnson, maintenance officer, Co. E, 3/3 Avn.

In the past vehicle maintenance was split up into two basic areas, organizational maintenance and direct support, Johnsn said.

He said small repairs and basic vehicle maintenance were generally taken care of by organizational maintenance, while the larger repairs, such as changing out major components in the vehicle, were farmed out to a direct support unit.

"Now we don't have to do that because it's done in house," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Brink, battalion motor sergeant, Co. E, 3/3 Avn.

"It takes out a lot of moving pieces," Johnson said. "It makes it more efficient."

The mechanics now use a forward repair system to work on vehiclesin the field. One of the items looks like

See AVN Page 11A

87th CSSB trains in Spartan Focus

Master Sergeant Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

The tempo has picked-up on Fort Stewart as 3rd Infantry Division units continue to hone their battle skills for their imminent deployment.

That was the objective for Soldiers of the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as they participated in the "Spartan Focus" exercise on Fort Stewart.

"We're here to provide direct support to the units supporting the 2nd Brigade Combat Team," said Major Jamal Wigglesworth, the 87th CSSB Support Operations Officer. "We are the link between those units and the commodities at Ft. Stewart so they

don't have to come out of the field and can remain tactical for the duration of the exercise."

Organized as a logistics task force during the exercise, the 87th CSSB puts themselves through tactical scenarios just as if they were actually deployed.

"Spartan Focus provides us a great opportunity to execute our battle rhythm while we support a customer," added Wigglesworth. "We can look at things such as our reporting systems, how we track convoys and how we gather critical information."

Once the exercise is in full affect and their operational systems in place, the 87th are then ready for additional challenges.

See CSSB Page 5A



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Sgt. Martin Sams, petroleum specialist, Distribution Platoon, Co. E, 3/3 Avn. "hot refuels" an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter in the field. Refueling while the helicopter is still running, allows for less time on the ground and a quicker return to the fight.

Leaders negotiate culture obstacles

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau
2nd BCT Public Affairs

2nd Brigade Combat Team, Special Training Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, conducted a negotiations training exercise during Spartan Focus Thursday on Fort Stewart.

The training focus was on building positive relationships with Iraqi leaders, which ultimately help achieve the mission goals, said Maj. Jeff Denius, battalion executive officer, who lead the training.

Denius gathered valuable negotiation skills and knowledge in the Balkans in 2000.

Denius said negotiators need to stay focused and come well prepared to prevent the negotiation from getting out of control and end up doing more damage than good.

"It's about the people," said Denius. "Emphasize partnering with Iraqi officials to facilitate operational objectives."

It is imperative that the commanders practice cultural awareness and language skills, said Denius. "For example, it is natural that you would look at the interpreter when speaking, but it may insult the Iraqi leader when you are not looking at him when talking."

An American Soldier, who was raised in the Middle East and speaks Arabic, helps facilitate the training with the help of the G-2X Language Training Facility.

"This training is very realistic," said Michael Ford, who was born and raised in Iraq and is now a contractor from G2X acting as an Iraqi mayor in the scenario. "It

gives the commanders great exposure to Iraqi customs, society and psychology. Most Iraqi's don't care about a team but only about themselves and their own family."

It is a different culture, he continued. "If the mayor is corrupt and head of a tribe, you may find yourself opposing 2500 new enemies. They will attack you with improvised explosive devises and anything they can come up with. That's why it is so important to know as much as possible about Iraqi culture and customs."

Denius believes in the importance of intelligence.

"Preparation requires detailed understanding of contacts and targets," he said. "Negotiations are an opportunity to build allies. Recognizing and practicing Iraqi customs builds credibility."

Communication is another crucial factor taught in the training. Commanders learn failed negotiations must be addressed to prevent negative consequences, Denius said. A challenge new commanders have is not knowing what the previous commander promised to the Iraqi leaders.

The training emphasizes being realistic.

"Only promise what you can follow through with," Denius said. "And use it to leverage Iraqi counterparts to inform the population."

Knowing when to give the Iraqi leaders what they ask, and when to hold back is one of the challenges Capt. Ben Gatzke, commander of C Company, 1st Battalion 30th Infantry, faced in his training scenario.

He quickly found himself in a situation where the

See 2BCT Page 5A



Spc. Dan Balda

Maj. Glenn Nocerito, 4th BCT Fire Support Officer, helps Kelly Byler with her shoes after she jumped around the bounce house at the Vanguard Jamboree held at Fort McAllister Friday night. See story on Page 10A.

Marne 6 Sends Stay on course with moral compass

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

What guides you?
I believe that the most important piece of furniture in my house is my mirror. If I can be proud of what I see when I leave and when I come home then I am satisfied.
Our officer corps is our Army's moral compass. I expect all officers to set the moral example for their units.
You can find great officers in units that are doing the right things all the time.
Too often, officers try to win popularity contests with their Soldiers.
If you are an officer, you are expected to live according to the highest standards of personal conduct and be morally fit at all times.
Then and only then will Soldiers begin to emulate positive behaviors. Then and only then will they begin to take the character of a great unit and team.

Above all else, Soldiers want to accomplish their mission.
They expect that their leaders will not place others in a compromised position.
They expect that their officer will do the right thing. Seeing this, they will afford trust and respect - the ingredients that cause men to follow leaders and win.
We have all memorized the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.
Some wear a small green tag next to their ID tags that reminds them of the words.
Those of you who carry the Army values next to your body should pull them out and read them one more time.



Do your actions equal the words? An officer must embody these values all the time.
In combat there can be dire consequences for units that fail to abide to certain moral standards.
You may have heard of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Soldier Rules. There are ten and each Soldier is obligated to follow these rules. Officers lead units that abide by the Soldier's rules.
(1) Soldiers fight only enemy combatants.
(2) Soldiers do not harm enemies who surrender. They disarm them and turn them over to their superior.
(3) Soldiers do not kill or torture enemy prisoners of war.
(4) Soldiers collect and care for the

wounded, whether friend or foe.
(5) Soldiers do not attack medical personnel, facilities, or equipment.
(6) Soldiers destroy no more than the mission requires.
(7) Soldiers treat civilians humanely.
(8) Soldiers do not steal. Soldiers respect private property and possessions.
(9) Soldiers should do their best to prevent violations of the law of war.
(10) Soldiers report all violations of the law of war to their superior.
I am proud to be a member of the Army's officer corps.
I expect great things of my fellow officers. More importantly, our Soldiers and their noncommissioned officers expect their officer to be the moral compass for their lives.
The next time you look in the mirror, will you see a "moral compass" looking back at you?
ROCK OF THE MARNE!

Congratulations at Colmar: The Week of February 20



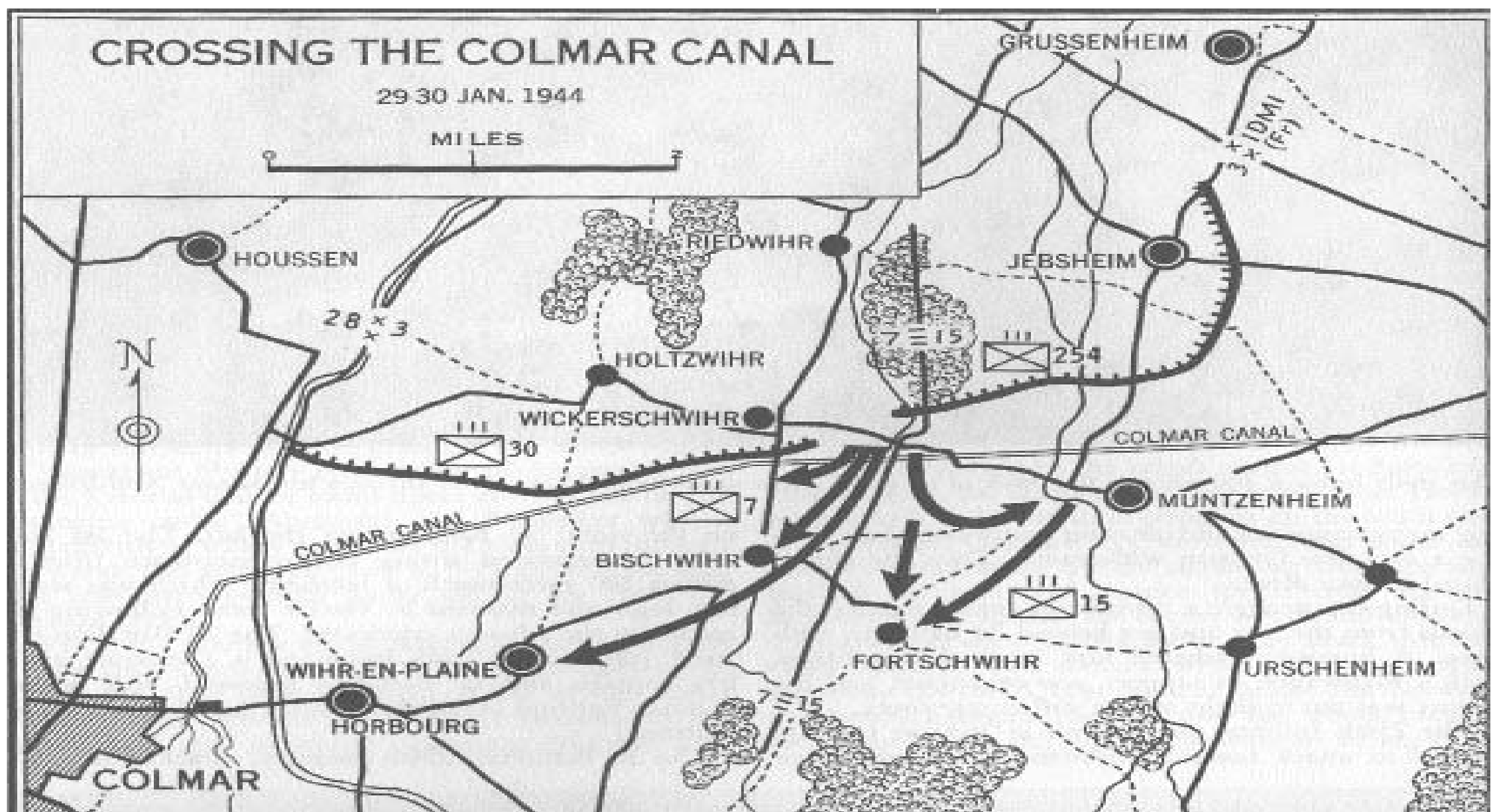
Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

Upon the completion of the 16-day trail at the Colmar Pocket, a wintry locale very near to the region of Alsace in the East of France, rightly referred to as the "frozen crust" by historians, Major General F.W. Milburn, who commanded the XXI Corps through WWII, had this to say in congratulations:
"The operations of the XXI Corps in the

Colmar area have been successfully completed. Colmar has been liberated and the enemy has been driven to the east of the Rhine, Milburn said. "The success of these operations has been due to the loyalty, the gallantry, and the unselfish devotion to duty of the many thousands of officers and enlisted men of the units that constitute the XXI Corps."
"The Third Infantry Division was particularly outstanding in these operations,"

Milton said. "It performed its assignments with great enthusiasm. It completed these missions successfully, contributing materially thereby to the great victory achieved by our units."
Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers, Sixth Army Group Commander added, "This commendable operation is in the best tradition of the Third Infantry Division and has added another glorious chapter to your outstanding record."
On this week in Marne History, even

General Charles de Gaulle, who was at that time head of the Provisional French Government, said thank you by holding a ceremony in Colmar on February 20, 1945.
In addition, for enduring a fight characterized by frozen earth, so unyielding as to prevent the digging of foxholes and German tanks and tank destroyers that took many lives, the division earned the French Croix de Guerre for great bravery in combat and a Distinguished Unit Citation.





Photos by Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

Right: Spc. Luis Barrera administers fluids intravenously to Spc. Eric C. Knight during down-time of the convoy training.

Spartan Focus: Convoy operations in Iraq

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau
2nd BCT Public Affairs

1/9 Field Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and the 92nd Engineers conducted a life-fire convoy training exercise as part of the Spartan Focus Friday on Fort Stewart.

"The objective was to get the units ready to deploy and effectively conduct convoy operations over in Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Jason F. Dene, 2nd Brigade small arms master gunner.

For this training exercise the units' objective was to drive a convoy through hostile territory to reach an engineer unit with supplies, said Dene.

"Along the way we surprised them (Soldiers) with Improvised Explosive Devices and simulated enemy attacks," said Dene. "We also identified casualties during the attack so the units were forced to apply casualty evacuations skills and knowledge."

IED's are a constant threat in Iraq. During a convoy, the Soldiers have to decide in a moment, if it is advisable to stop or accelerate and get past as quick as possible, when an IED goes off without apparent damage to the convoy, said Dene. "During the training we prepared IED attacks for each of those scenarios."

"We know what we do here is important," said Major John Pope, 2nd Brigade engineer. "We have a good mix of veterans and new recruits out of Basic Combat Training and this provides realistic exposure to combat situations."

A productive training factor is that the units do two runs, said Pope.

After the dry run, we conduct an after action review to give immediate feedback, as well as to receive thoughts and concerns from the Soldiers in return, said Pope.

"After that we encourage the Soldiers to continue the AAR without us as some of them feel more comfortable asking questions or voice concerns that way. The team leaders track the feedback and consult with us to leave no question unanswered. The Soldiers can see the impact of the training during the second run."

Dene was pleasantly surprised after the training.

"You can tell the leadership in BCT and Advanced Individual Training is good," he said. "The Soldiers came here with a good understanding and worked together as team."

"Even during the dry run, with the unexpected obstacles we threw at them, they knew what to focus on. I am confident they will do fine in Iraq and successfully complete their missions."

After the completion of the training, Pope gave one more advice to his Soldiers that he feels will save lives in Iraq. "Pre-combat checks, pre-combat inspections and rehearsals," he urged.

They may find themselves with a different mix of Soldiers and they won't know how their fellow Soldiers operate.

The checks, inspections and rehearsals will get everyone on the same page, Pope said.



Maj. Pope conducts a briefing with 1/9 Field Artillery 2 BCT before the dry run of the convoy training mission. While he informed the Soldiers that they may encounter enemy activity and improvised explosive devices, he did not specify where they may encounter them.



Above: Soldiers of the 1/9 Field Artillery focus on a pre-mission brief. Their task is to re-supply an engineer unit by driving a convoy through hostile territory.

Right: 92nd Engineer Soldiers, Spc. Demetrius A. Herring, left, and Pfc. Dominic T. Hamm, right, conduct casualty evacuation training for injured Sgt. Sharonnia Larkins.



Dream fulfilled for civilian engineer at work, home



Jennifer Scales
Public Affairs Specialist

To see a building, a heating system, even a car, and then being able to say that he was a part of its design system is a dream come true for Fred Pierre Louis, energy engineer for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

"I always wanted to find out how things worked and how planes remained in the air," said Louis.

His motivation came to a head while he attended Erasmus High School, where he met Paul Robinson at a job fair. A successful minority engineer who worked for the New York City authority, Robinson told Louis in order to succeed and continue, he would need to take more math and physics because he would need them in college. Robinson continued to answer his questions and became a mentor for Louis.

The rest is 'his story'. After attending public schools in New York City, Louis received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from New York University followed by a master's degree in computer science and information systems from Boston University.

Military time began in the U.S. Army Reserves, but he was called to active duty in the field artillery MOS, and served with engineer units at Fort Sill and Darmstadt, Germany. After serving three years, Louis went back into the private sector for about six months, but then came back to the federal government in the Army engineer intern program.

Before coming to Stewart three years ago, he had been working as a civil servant in the energy engineering field for nearly ten years.

"My job in a nutshell is to save the command money in terms of reducing energy waste," said Louis. "I basically go out on the installation and look at the operations in terms of heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems, and identify the waste, along with recommending technical solutions to correct the problems. I look at the whole building as an entity."

Waste is made reference to such things as simple as leaving windows open when they should be closed or leaving lights on.

Nowadays computer waste falls into the category. "We have been having a lot of problems with them because they are costing us so much money in terms of electricity. At the moment we are investigating a new technique on the market in which software is loaded at one central location which can then shut down all the designated computers at night," said Louis.

Louis added that computers should be powered all the way down at the end of the shift, not left in a hovering mode, in order to save energy. Water is another part of energy conservation here as well. "It costs money to

produce water and to, in turn, dispose of waste water. Instead of taking a 15-minute shower, one should consider one for five minutes because we can save a lot of money that way also," said Louis.

There are some buildings on the installation that have their heating and air conditioning systems controlled automatically. "Out of the 2000 buildings on Stewart, there are about 80 on line that are controlled by a master computer in a central location. When there is a problem, the computer is set up to report the problem for repair without the occupant's notice. As new buildings go up and major renovations occur, we grab the opportunity to install this control system to bring that building on line. Right now there is an ongoing project to connect 300 buildings, which includes barracks and offices alike. We are going high-tech here," said Louis.

Fort Stewart and Hunter have been successful over the past three years, as their energy consumption has been reduced by about 27 percent. "We are looking for a higher reduction definitely because the Department of the Army has set an energy goal reduction of 30 percent by the year 2015. As a matter of fact we have met the goal, now we are just fighting to maintain it," said Louis.

Most of the waste noted here is due to mechanical and temperature control problems with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, noted Louis. Over the past three years, over 54 million dollars has been spent in corrections due to mechanical systems.

"It is basically an awareness issue," said Louis. "Now we are speeding up our awareness campaign by starting with a command energy council. All the key players like AAFES, Commissary, building energy monitors, directorates, and all unit commanders can help us get the message across that saving energy is just a good thing to do. Every time you turn off the lights, money is saved. And the money saved gets to stay in the installation and ultimately improve the quality of life of the Soldier."

Ten years ago, energy was not a high priority. "The utilities account is mandated by Congress; therefore it falls into a 'must pay' category. With the discussion of renewable energy now on the table, they want to make sure we depend upon foreign oil as less as possible. So all of the energy engineers have to make sure that at least 10 percent of our energy come from a renewable source, like wood for instance," said Louis.

Fort Stewart has the largest wood fire boiler in the Army system and it is saving us money, Louis noted. Another part of his work requires him to ensure energy security for the installation. In the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or other force of nature, back up power must come on line to continue operation in mission's critical facilities. As part of the operations and maintenance division of the directorate of public works, Louis along with the other members make sure there will be water and electricity. "If there is a problem they call us and we send somebody to go out and fix it. That is what we do," said Louis.

Individuals should remember that ulti-

mately someone pays for energy. "It is not free. Your tax dollars are paying for it," stated Louis.

Louis related to the energy process when he was in Europe. "As the energy manager at the 414th Base Support Battalion in Germany, I had a lot of friends in the German and British Army who had their energy rationed out to them. Once they exceeded their monthly allowance, the rest came out of pocket. Here, I know it's a benefit to the Soldier but at the same we want them to be conscientious that if they waste it, the impact will be felt on the next generation. And then we are going to have to import more foreign oil while trying to stay away from that probability."

"My job is pretty challenging because it involves so many disciplines. You have to be creative, read constantly to know what is the latest in the field, and know how to make things work better. I have to read all the time and do research on the Internet to try to come up with better cost effective technical solutions that best serve the installation," said Louis.

Sometimes he may turn to the Department of Energy, the Corps of Engineers Research Laboratory, and Oakridge National Laboratory to get technical opinions as to where the best technology is to resolve or implement an item.

He still enjoys working on cars, something he developed a love for while growing up in Brooklyn, New York.

He also shares his love on his wife Uta, and two young daughters, who reside in Richmond Hill with him.



Jennifer Scales

Energy engineer for Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Fred P. Louis, points out a component of energy in another building that can be observed by the master computer.

Marne Voices Speak Out

What message would you send to the deployed Soldiers?

"Keep your faith and your heart. Know that we love you."

Master Sgt. Mattie Smith
HHSC, STB



"I want to tell my husband, Jerry Rogers, I miss you very much. You're doing a great job, and hurry home."

Monica Rogers with Alex, age 3
Family members



"I want to say thanks to the Soldiers and say good luck, stay safe and come home soon."

Lynne Martuscelli
Family member



"I want to give a shout out to all our troops. I wish them a safe and speedy return."

Pearl Jiggetts
Family member



"Good luck. Keep your strength and spirit up. We're waiting for you."

Linda GumpDiehl, Mark, age 2
Family members



"I want to tell my husband, Mat, thanks and I'm proud of him. I love you very much."

Michelle Simmons, Caysom age 2
Family members



Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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2BCT

From Page 1A

Iraqi mayor tried to delegate his responsibilities to the U.S. Forces while asking for more and more assistance.

"I cannot lose control no matter what," he said. "I try to put a positive spin on the situation and stay in charge. This was a very realistic training scenario and a great opportunity to learn."

Gatzke said Ford played the part of an Iraqi mayor very well and was glad to have such valuable resources.

"The ultimate goal of these negotiations is to dissuade insurgent activity," said Denius. "Address at every opportunity and remind Iraqi official of his responsibilities."

The first training exercise started with meeting the Iraqi mayor for the first time. The goal was to establish a positive contact.

The commanders were told they knew of three bridges in the city; with two of them being destroyed in Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

Further, they were informed that the outgoing unit just finished an electric project that is giving each section of the city four hours of power every day. A team is currently looking into improving the city's

power requirements.

The outgoing unit was informed that the local population is generally unsupportive of coalition forces and started significant riots outside the gates. IED's and children throwing rocks have been a constant problem.

The negotiation meeting occurred in the mayor's office between the commander, his interpreter and the mayor.

The desired outcome for the commander was to establish himself as the new commander and begin a positive relationship.

"The ultimate objective was to convince the mayor to influence the population to support coalition forces in order to help the development of current sewer, water, electricity and technology projects," said Denius.

It was a scenario commanders may face in Iraq.

Overall, the commanders did a good job according to Denius. An important part of the training is the after-action review. Lessons and techniques discussed will help the negotiators in preparing them for their next mission, the follow-up meeting.



PV2 Blanton Rosenau

'Mayor' Ford and Capt. Gatzke wish each other farewell after the conclusion of a successful negotiation. Gatzke is portraying his respects by displaying the customary gesture of placing his right on his heart when bowing. "It is one of the customs we teach during the training," said Ford.



Rodney Williams

87TH CSSB soldiers attempt to control demonstrators outside of the Tactical Operations Center during the Spartan Focus exercise

CSSB

From Page 1A

"There may be some attacks on the convoys as well as some opposing-force play that our battle staff has to react to," said Wigglesworth. "That's the test that we want. After this exercise we can refine things and be ready once we hit the ground in Iraq."

The 87th battle staff members are not the only Soldiers receiving benefit from the exercise.

The Soldiers delivering supplies to an unfamiliar tactical area are also getting a chance to practice their battle drills.

"The soldiers who are going to make the difference are our junior leaders who are going to be on the ground reacting," Wigglesworth said. "They are

going to have to make split second decisions to not only save lives, but accomplish the mission."

The battle tasks that are taught to the convoy operators are battle tested.

Information on what is happening during convoy operations downrange is translated into realistic training during the exercise.

"We (the convoys) run into IEDs, small arms fire and roadblocks," said Master Sergeant Stanford Garden, 87th CSSB Support Operations NCOIC.

"It gives the convoy operators a chance to practice their battle tasks before they deploy. It gets them ready."

All scenarios are not geared

just toward disrupting convoy operations during the exercise.

In order to achieve the final objectives once Spartan Focus concludes, the 87th Tactical Operations Center reacted to simulated mortar attacks, small arms fire and a local demonstration protesting the U.S. presence.

"We want to feel that as a Logistics Task Force HQ, we (87th) can provide first class command and control for any company size organization that maybe attached to us," Wigglesworth explained. "We want to feel like we can be task organized with any type of capability and be just as successful as the 87th has always been throughout its history."

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Catholic Lenten schedule Feb. 21 - April 7

Fort Stewart Lenten schedule begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21. Mass is held at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion is every Friday of Lent at 11:45 a.m.; Daily Mass at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Heritage Chapel, building T-85, Lindquist Road.

Hunter Army Airfield Lenten Schedule begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21. Mass is 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Stations of the Cross - followed by soup supper at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays of Lent at Hunter Chapel, building 145

Liturgical Lenten Schedule

Fort Stewart Liturgical Lenten schedule begins Wednesday, Feb. 21: Mass is 6 p.m. at Victory Chapel

Stewart Briefs

Sergeants Major Association

The 3rd Inf. Div. SMA will hold a meeting, 4-5 p.m., Feb. 22 at the Hinesville Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

A low country boil will follow. Contact your major support command command sergeant major to RSVP. The uniform is duty or civilian casual.

Highways 119, 144 traffic alert

Motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving on Fort Stewart, specifically Georgia Highways 119 and 144. Due to increased training throughout the month. Motorists are urged to use extra caution and be aware of possible vehicle and Soldier road crossings.

College graduation registration

All Soldiers, family members, and civilians who plan to graduate or who are close to graduating in May of this year, should contact their school for deadlines and procedures for applying to attend the Fort Stewart graduation May 17.

If you are a potential Central Texas College graduate you must contact the college by today.

Graduates from any and all colleges, not just the local institutions, are encouraged to attend.

Deadline dates will vary from school to school. With some schools, you have to apply in early February.

Troops-to-teachers sought

Bill Kirkland, Program Manager for the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program and Spouse to Teachers Program, will be available to answer questions at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 11 a.m., Feb. 28.

The program provides eligible Soldiers up to \$10,000 to become public school teachers.

Under the Spouse to Teachers Programs, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state certification tests up to a total of \$600.

Installation BOSS meeting

The Installation Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will hold a meeting at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Rockys disco room.

The meeting is for Brigade and Battalion Representatives and features Sergeant Major Darrell Jordan, G-4, Special Troops Battalion. For more information, call BOSS president Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon at 767-5119.

Contractor ID cards

Effective Feb. 5 the office which issues Contractor identification cards at Fort Stewart will be relocated to Mower Processing Center, Bldg 208. Hours for that operation will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All contract personnel at Fort Stewart who need to be issued new contractor ID cards and/or renewals should report to that location. For further information please call 767-8895.

New barber shop available

The barber shop at Bldg. 419, next to the furniture store, is now open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 876-0934.

Free Soldier swimming lessons

Sign up for swimming lessons at Newman Pool on Mondays and Thursdays. Only four Soldiers allowed per class. For more information or to register, call 767-3034.

Vehicle registration office moves

The Vehicle Registration Office has moved to Room

2064A, building 253 on Pony Soldier Road.

PWOC meets Wednesdays

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is changing meeting location, from Vale to Marne Chapel, starting Feb. 14. The meetings are at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday. For more information, call 767-4418.

Basketball championship

Come see the basketball action at Newman gym. The company-level basketball championship game will be played 7:30 p.m. March 22 at Newman Fitness Center, building 439. To find out more or see how your team is doing, see Page 2C.

Hunter Briefs

Hunter Tax Center

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Soldiers, family members and retirees are eligible for this service.

Your tax return will be filed electronically and you will receive your refund within approximately seven to 10 days. The Tax Center remains open through April 16.

The Hunter Tax Center is located at Bldg. 1211 (Hunter Legal Center). The hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the Hunter Tax Center at 315-3675

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum

Experience the story of American air power through powerful personal stories of the men and women of the Eighth Air Force.

In appreciation of the armed services, one free adult ticket will be offered for every adult-purchased ticket for Soldiers and their families through June 30. For more information on this promotion for the military, call (912) 748-8888.

ID card section upgrade

The identification card sections at Fort Stewart (Soldier Service Center and Mower Processing Center) plus the ID Card Section at Hunter Army Airfield will close March 26-27 for a system upgrade. For more information, call 767-4909.



Justice Served

Feb. 5

1st Lt., found guilty at a CG imposed Article 15; conduct unbecoming an officer and gentlemen; reprimand, forfeit \$2,000 for two months.

Jan 25

Sgt. James A. Clement, 4-64 AR, convicted at special court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine and MDMA; reduced to E2, 60 days' confinement.

Pvt. Johannes Joubert, 603 ASB, convicted at special court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine; 90 days' confinement.

Jan 31

Staff Sgt. George O Kirkman, USAG with duty at Gainesville Recruiting Company, convicted at general court-martial; violating a lawful general regulation, making a false official statement; reduced to E1, forfeit all pay and allowances, 3 months' confinement, bad conduct discharge.

Feb 1

SGM Keith Butler, USAG with duty at SOCOM, convicted at general court-martial; wrongful use/possession of cocaine; reprimand, reduced to E8, forfeit \$2,000 for 4 months, 30 days' confinement.

Feb. 8

Spc. Heath A. Young, 4-64 AR, convicted at special court-martial; AWOL, wrongful use of marijuana and cocaine; reduced to E1, 5 months' confinement, bad conduct discharge.

Pvt. from 703 BSB, found guilty at Article 15; making false official statements; reduced to E1, forfeit \$636 for 1 month, 45 days' extra duty.

Spc. from 703 BSB, found guilty at Article 15; insubordinate conduct, failure to follow orders or regulations; reduced to E3, forfeit \$846 for 2 months (suspended), 45 days' extra duty, 15 days' restriction.

Spc. from 1-76 FA, found guilty at Article 15; failing to follow an order or regulation; reduced to E3, forfeit \$461 (suspended).

Spc. from 4-64 AR, found guilty at Article 15; using illegal drugs; reduced to E1, forfeit \$636 for two months, 45 days' extra duty/restriction.

Pvt. from 4-64 AR, found guilty at Article 15; using illegal drugs; reduced to E1, forfeit \$636 for two months, 45 days' extra duty/restriction.

Pvt. from 4-64 AR, found guilty at Article 15; using illegal drugs; forfeit

\$297, 14 days' extra duty/restriction.

Pvt. from 1-76 FA, found guilty at Article 15; failing to report to duty; reduced to E1, forfeit \$297.

Spc. from 4-64 AR, found guilty at Article 15; using illegal drugs; reduced to E1, forfeit \$357 (suspended), 14 days' extra duty/restriction.

Spc. from STB, 3d SB; found guilty at Article 15; underage drinking; reduced to E3; forfeit \$394 for one month; 14 days' extra duty/restriction.

Sgt. from 260 QM; found guilty at Article 15; FTR, multiple disrespect to an NCO; forfeit \$542 for one month, 14 days' extra duty.

Pfc. from STB, 3d SB; found guilty at Article 15; disobeyed a lawful order, FTR, disrespect to an NCO; reduced to E2 (suspended), forfeit \$423 for one month (suspended), 14 days' extra duty.

Pvt. from 92d Eng; found guilty at Article 15; multiple FTRs; Article 15; 7 days' extra duty.

Pfc. from STB, 3d SB; found guilty at Article 15; multiple FTRs and disrespect to a NCO; reduced to E2, forfeit \$333 for one month, 14 days' extra duty.

Ask the Judge

Capt. Shanna Laura Conner

Staff Judge Advocate office

Most people are familiar with the terms “child support” or even “alimony,” however, what many people do not know is a servicemember’s obligation to support his family even if no court order exists.

The Department of Defense requires that all servicemembers support their family members and not use any military service to avoid that obligation.

Each branch of service has their own policy requiring servicemembers to provide financial support to family members. The Army’s Policy is Army Regulation 608-99.

When does a family support obligation arise?

Any time a servicemember and his family members are living separately, a support obligation may arise. The servicemember does not need to have a court order such as a divorce decree or a child support order to have a family support obligation. A family member could be a spouse, children from a current marriage, children from a former marriage, children born out of wedlock, or any other person the Soldier is obligated to support by state law.

Does the Army regulation allow the Army to garnish the service member’s wages?

No, the regulation does not authorize the Army to take money from the servicemember to support his or her family. It does however create a military obligation to pay support.

What is the support obligation?

AR 608-99 describes multiple ways to determine the amount of support owed to family members from a servicemember when they are living apart. The first is a court order. If a court has previously ordered a certain amount paid to a spouse, former spouse, or in support of a child, the Army will require the servicemember to pay the amount of the court order regardless of where the family members or servicemember is living. The second is a written agreement. If a servicemember and their spouse are living separately, but agree in writing to terms of support, the Army will use that written agreement as the servicemember’s support obligation. The agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties involved. The Army will not mediate disputes over terms of verbal agreements. Even if the parties previously agreed verbally, if currently disputed, the Army will assume no agreement existed and will use its own policy, interim support, to be the servicemember’s support obligation. The final support obligation is AR 608-99’s interim support obligation. Without a court order or written agreement, the servicemember is required to pay BAH II with dependents rate as support to all family members.

Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pv2 Matthew W. Zeimer, HHC, 3/69th AR, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314, contact Capt Michael Hurley, rear detachment, 3/69th AR, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314, at michael.hurley@stewart.army.mil or call 912-767-4595. (1)

Soldiers display driving skills, learn valuable safety lessons

Army News Service

HOCKENHEIM, Germany - Visualize several cars and trucks maneuvering around obstacles, slipping and sliding into the barricades of water, and even drifting and spinning out of control, all in the name of safety.

A group of twelve Army Reserve Soldiers and civilians from the 7th Army Reserve Command tested their capabilities as a driver when confronted with obstacles and different road conditions at the Hockenheim German organization Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club traffic safety center.

This was the first time the ADAC traffic safety center was used for members of the 7th ARCOM, located in Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany.

The event was organized to educate them on driver safety and prevent accidents.

Basic instruction was provided by Rainer Gurke, an auto and motorcycle trainer from the German Traffic Security Commission.

First on the list was the Slalom Module, where drivers were allowed to get a feel for the road. Gurke directed them to go 40km/h the second time around. That is when the cones started getting knocked over and some of the vehicles started losing control.

"Accidents happen so fast, so you need to be able to look at handling your speed before, so you then have more time to react," Gurke said. "There should be more attention at everything on the road."

Next, at the Emergency Braking Module, the trainer demonstrated how to properly sit and fasten seat belts. He said a driver's face is liable to hit the steering wheel if there is too much slack on the belt in an accident.

He said that a driver should sit up straight where the back rest is fully vertical.

This allows a stopping point with the lower body and the ability to apply full pressure on the brake pedal when necessary. Gurke continued saying that many drivers have their seats reclined, but when braking in an emergency that position will have the person pushed upward.

Gurke said drivers are more likely to break their arms and legs when those limbs are extended.

"You have more absorption when you bend your knees, elbows, and sit a bit closer to the steering wheel," he said.

After being briefed, the participants were told to speed up to 50km/h and completely stop once reaching a set of cones placed further down the track.

The driving was performed first on a dry and then wet

surface to show the different stopping distances.

During the Obstacle Avoidance Module, drivers went through the track with speeds of up to 65 km/h.

This is where water based obstacles spontaneously shot up from the ground at different areas making it difficult to anticipate. You could see vehicles drive into the wall of water as there was hardly any time to react.

He said, "If you look at the obstacle, you drive towards the obstacle. If you steer sharper and not too wide, your vehicle won't slide into the obstacle."

The participants learned to safely maneuver around and avoid an obstacle too close to stop from behind.

"Among many things, the most impressive activity was learning how to do an emergency stop," said Capt. Sheila L. Coker, an Army Reserve finance-budget officer. "Through either early driver's education training or instinct, I was prone to tap my brakes, which is, of course, the wrong thing to do with today's ABS systems."

Gurke said a driver needs to press on the clutch with manual transmission when stopping in an emergency. If you don't, the number of RPMs (revolutions per minute) will continue to drive your car forward.

At the Circular Tracks Module, participants learned about oversteering and understeering with cars and trucks on the wet surface. Vehicles would start to drift going around the curve where drivers would then release the throttle and, if necessary, apply their brakes to gain control.

"It is very important to be alert and focused when driving," said Staff Sgt. Jeanette I. Lafoy, an Army Reserve career counselor. "The instructor reiterated steering techniques and emergency braking procedures when driving in inclement weather."

During the Seven Percent Downgrade Module portion of the course, drivers confronted more water obstacles, but this time going downhill on a slick surface.

The drivers had an even greater challenge when maneuvering and braking around obstacles.

Near the end of the training Gurke discussed the age and type of tires, saying that they shouldn't be older than five to six years, as they could be hazardous.

"The instructor taught us about the data listed on tires," said Lafoy. "I have since shown others about the DOT numbers on tires and that the last numbers represent the week and year each tire was manufactured."

In conclusion to the training, the instructor and participants discussed the modules covered and what they had learned.

"After having this training, I feel better prepared and



Staff Sgt. Osvaldo Sanchez

Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Rasmussen, 7th Army Reserve Command, tries to stop before an obstacle when going on a seven degree downgrade at the ADAC Traffic Safety Center.

more confident for whatever situations may occur while driving in 'less than perfect' conditions," said Coker.

They said they enjoyed it and had fun, but that it was also a critical learning experience.

"This was an exciting experience," Lafoy said. "I was able to challenge myself and the car I was driving in a safe and fun environment."

The 11-hectare site has more than 5,000 square meters of skid area and 119 water obstacles.

"I would recommend this course for all drivers; whether you've been driving for two years or 20," said Coker. "This course provides participants with actual driving experiences in a professionally controlled environment, and gives them the opportunity to learn how to react to avoid an accident by driving their own auto through the course. No textbook or video can give you this type of reality."

Preparing the community for the worst

Nondice Powell
Hunter Army Airfield

Members of the military and representatives from numerous local, county, state and federal government agencies gathered Feb. 8 for the first ever Fort Stewart Executive Civil Support Conference at Hunter Army Airfield. The purpose of the conference was to discuss and better understand the support everyone can provide when an emergency occurs, whether it is in the civilian communities near Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield or on the bases. These emergencies could be anything from a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or tornado, to a terrorist attack.

U.S. Army North Region IV Defense Coordination Officer Col. Robert Mayr was among those attending the event. Mayr works alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV federal coordinating officer. His job is to act as the liaison between FEMA and the Department of Defense to help determine what aid the department is able and allowed to provide.

"For any 'Department of Defense' asset to come in and formally be tasked to respond to any natural disaster or terrorist act, the 'department' is not the lead federal agency," Mayr said. "Part of my job is to interface with the federal assets so if a request comes in for the 'department' to support some kind of effort, we have an in."

The group discussed different scenarios as examples of what support could be provided and what would need to be done

before support could be provided. Everything from providing Liberty Memorial Hospital in Hinesville with a generator to operations on the flightline at Hunter was among the topics discussed.

"It may not be my seven story tower," said Jack Dibrell, chief of airfield division at Hunter. "It may be a guy sitting on my roof with a backpack having positive control of the runway."

With hurricane season approaching, everyone felt coming together in this kind of forum was very important.

"We are doing a lot of stuff in preparing for hurricane season, and also for any other type of disaster; earthquakes, tornadoes, or terrorism type events," said Michael Bolch, FEMA Region IV federal coordinating officer. "It's very important to establish those relationships ahead of time."

"This is a team sport," said Hinesville Mayor Thomas Ratcliffe Jr. "It will take all government levels' resources to meet catastrophic disasters. It's important that we all understand what we can do to help each other."

Everyone was thankful for the opportunity to come together and gain a better understanding of what help can and should be provided.

"It's just a great time to share ideas and thoughts so that we are all truly thinking about those kind of things because it's all about helping people," Mayr said.

"I think it's an excellent idea," Ratcliffe said. "It's a great opportunity for all of us to exchange ideas and reassure ourselves that our plans are in place and there are no significant gaps in needed response."



Nondice Powell

Lt. Greg Mercier, Georgia State Patrol Chief Pilot, takes a moment to talk to those attending the Fort Stewart Executive Civil Support Conference at the Hunter Club on Hunter Army Airfield. The conference was an opportunity for local, state and federal leaders and agencies to come together to discuss how they can help each other in times of need.

DOD increases death gratuity

Special to The Fronline

The President signed the National Defense Authorization Act 2006 increasing the Death Gratuity to a total of \$100,000 for all deaths retroactive to October 7, 2001 through January 5, 2006. This legislation also provides an additional enhanced death benefit in the amount of \$150,000 for any active duty deaths occurring between October 7, 2001 and August 31, 2005.

"Family members of fallen Soldiers make great sacrifices on a daily basis and have suffered the ultimate loss. No amount of money can compensate these families for the loss of their loved one," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert Deckard, who leads the Army Families First Casualty Call Center (FFCCC) under the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center. "This is an entitlement that our extended family members are due."

FFCCC has identified 3,500 families who may be eligible for the Enhanced Death Benefits and is in the process of attempting to contact these family members to notify them of their potential eligibility. Beneficiaries who believe they meet the eligibility criteria may also contact FFCCC to verify eligibility, obtain the proper forms and receive assistance with completing and submitting their claim to the Defense Finance Accounting Service. As a result of this combined outreach effort, more than 90 percent of eligible beneficiaries have been paid.

FFCCC is a one-stop resolution center and was established to assist surviving family members of deceased Soldiers. The mission of FFCCC is to provide long-term support and advocacy, and offer comprehensive resolutions to the families of fallen Soldiers by partnering with private and public organizations in addition to various outreach groups.

Families of fallen Soldiers may contact the FFCCC for further information concerning eligibility criteria or questions regarding enhanced death benefits, support and referral information 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling toll-free (866) 272-5841 or www.army-familiesfirst.army.mil.

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U.S. ARMY

Jamboree brings families, Soldiers closer together



Photos by Spc. Dan Balda

Above: Jordan Bowman plays catch during the Jamboree Friday night.
Right: Staff Sgt. Dominic Fielder helps Sgt. David Debonat, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, display some unit pride during the jamboree .

Spc. Dan Balda
 4th BCT PAO

Braving the elements and sand gnats, Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team flocked to Fort McAllister for the Vanguard Jamboree and chili cook-off Friday night.

"This is one of the last opportunities to get all the Soldiers and their families together to build some esprit de corps before we go to the field and deploy to (the National Training Center)," said Maj. Kolin Bernardoni, 4th BCT executive officer.

1st Lt. Matt Tonkin, the brigade assistant intelligence officer, said the goal of the event was to have as much fun as possible while also allowing the leadership to build relationships that are needed for successful combat operations.

"Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander has stressed that this organization is a family. This event is great because even if you are a single Soldier like myself I still get to meet everybody's families which gives us more to talk about while we are out in the field."

The brigade had been planning the event since early January, with each battalion providing their own representative to help with

the process.

The 703rd Brigade Support Battalion cooks provided the muscle behind the grill, giving Sgt. Lillian Woodside and her food service specialists a chance to show off their expertise.

Woodside, a food service sergeant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703 BSB, was proud to be asked to cook for the event.

"If the leadership wanted they could have the event catered by a civilian group, but this gives them more for their money as well as better food," she said. "We are as good, if not better than most of the civilians out there. I love letting my Soldiers show off their talents in front of their commanders."

Many other Soldiers pitched in to help. Some helped directing the parking while others painted children's faces to add to the festive atmosphere.

"I was just the brigade representative," Tonkin said. "The people that should get all the credit are the people who have been out here all day setting up and making this a great time for everybody to forget about work and spend time with their families and friends."





Photos by Sgt.1st Class Thomas Mills

A petroleum specialist from Distribution Platoon, Co. E, 3/3 Aviation, watches as an AH-64D Apache Longbow lands to be fueled.

AVN

From Page 1A

a box with a small crane attached to one side, the system allows the mechanics to do any level of maintenance they need to keep the wheels of logistics moving for the battalion.

“We can pull any engine even from the largest piece of equipment we have, which is a (heavy expanded mobility tactical truck), with that crane,” said Brink.

Brink said that before the restructuring, a vehicle that needed major repair would have to be sent to the rear during a training exercise.

“We would have probably lost the truck for the remainder of the exercise,” he said, “but

as it is in a matter of a couple of days the truck is back to the unit.”

The creation of Co. E brought on other changes as well, many of which are felt in the distribution platoon.

“We used to call it 3/5 Platoon,” said Cediell. The numbers in that designation stand for Class III, or ammunition, and Class V, fuel. Though the name has changed, the mission stays the same. The distribution platoon is responsible for fuel and ammunition, said Cediell. The way that mission is accomplished, though, is what has changed.

“It changed a whole lot for me,” said Sgt.

Martin Sams, petroleum specialist, Co. E. “The structure of the section changed a lot.”

In the past Sams would have worked for a larger unit, such as a support battalion, that serviced all the helicopters in the brigade. In that larger unit his section would be twice the size of the Co. E Distribution Platoon.

Now he’s part of a smaller company with the main focus of only servicing 3/3 Avn. helicopters.

That larger unit, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, now brings Co. E fuel, and the Soldiers of Distribution Platoon have to make sure all that fuel gets into 3/3 Avn.’s air-

craft. “We’re a smaller element with a bigger job now,” said Sams.

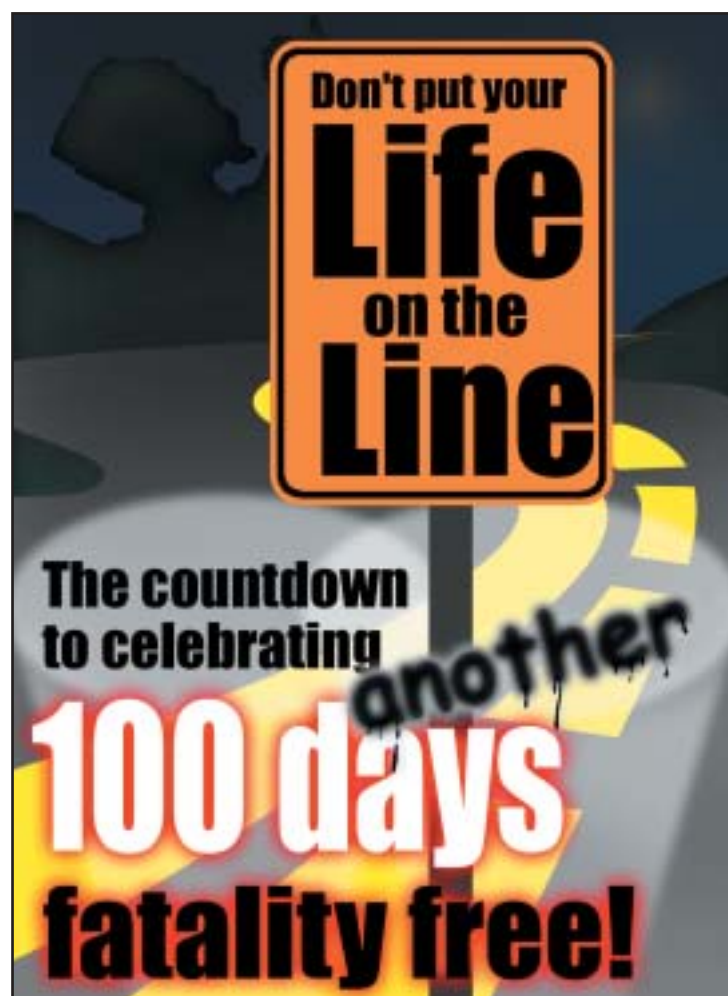
The company sets up a forward area rearm/refuel point while in the field. After flying missions the AH-64D Longbows land at the FARP where Sams and his fellow Soldiers refuel the aircraft and rearm them as needed. If the aircraft has maintenance issues mechanics from Co D. 3/3 Avn. are called.

“It’s a much more efficient way to do things from a logistics point of view,” explained Cediell. “With Echo Company on line now, the battalion as a whole is much more self-sufficient and self-sustaining.”



Photos by Sgt.1st Class Thomas Mills

Sgt. Kenneth Preyer (right) and Pfc. Gregory Branham discuss the install of an engine into a Humvee in the field.



DeCA names winners of seventh annual produce competition

FORT LEE, VA – Competition among commissaries for the best produce display is routinely stiff, but it reaches an apex during DeCA's annual produce merchandising contest.

Five commissaries took top honors among the 216 that participated in the competition with an "Exercise a Healthy Choice; Make it Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" theme. Winning produce teams by store category are:

Superstore – Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Large U.S. Store – Robins Air Force

Base, Ga.

Large Overseas Store – Yongsan Air Base, South Korea; Small U.S. Store – Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.; Small Overseas Store – Camp Stanley, Korea.

"This contest highlights the role our produce departments play in creating exciting shopping environments for our customers," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA's director and chief executive officer. "Our stores used the 'Exercise a Healthy Choice' theme and set up amazingly creative displays and product demonstrations that not only increased pro-

duce sales, but served to educate young and old alike about the healthy benefits of consuming fresh fruits and vegetables. This goes along well with DeCA's overall 'It's Your Choice, Make it Healthy' nutritional education emphasis that is entering its third year in 2007."

Honorable mention goes to produce departments at the following locations:

Superstore – McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; and Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Large U.S. Store – Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base, Ariz.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas; and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Large Overseas Store – Camp Foster, Okinawa; and Osan Air Base, South Korea

Small U.S. Store – McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.; and Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Small Overseas Store – Chinhae, South Korea; and Camp Kinser, Okinawa.

The competition ran in October 2006 and commissaries submitted digital portfolios to DeCA's Marketing Business Unit, the competition's sponsor.



Photo by Sharon Bass

BOSS distributes Valentine cheer

Special to the Frontline

Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers president Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon, 3rd Sustainment Brigade representative Sgt. Terrie McKenzie and Spc. Nicole Anderson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, helped make the BOSS Valentine Raffle at Rocky's Wednesday a success.

BOSS held the event as part of a fund raiser benefitting single Soldier initiatives at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Prizes included baskets filled with items donated by the Fort

Stewart Commissary, Hinesville Massage Clinic, Krogers, AppleBee's, Stacy's Flower Shop and BOSS.

The baskets were awarded to Gilberto Gonzalez; Sgt. Maurice Boddie from the Marne Reception Center; Master Sgt. Bobby Hawes, HHC 3rd Sustainment Bde. and Josh Karkalik from Hunter. The next BOSS activity is the Relay for Life in support of the fight against cancer. For more information about BOSS, call Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon at 767-5119.